

Mullen et al.

S/N: 09/681,475

REMARKS

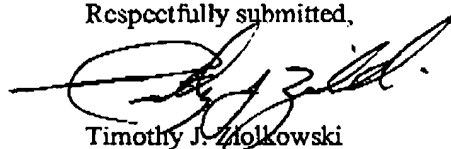
Claims 1-34 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action mailed May 17, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Worley (USP 6,651,190) in view of Wetzer (USP 6,738,748). Applicant has included herewith a Declaration under 37 CFR §1.131 to antedate the Wetzer reference.

In setting forth the claim rejections of the present Office Action, the Examiner provided multiple citations to the text of Worley. However, several of these citations point to text that does not appear to exist and others point to text that does not seem to be what was intended. For example, the Examiner cited column 14, lines 26-33 of Worley, but column 4 ends at line 24. If a future Office Action is deemed necessary citing Worley, Applicant respectfully requests correction of the erroneous citations.

In rejecting the claims under §103, the Examiner stated that all claims were rejected based upon the combination of Worley and Wetzer. In the rejection, the Examiner admitted that Worley alone does not teach all the elements of the claims. As Applicant believes that Wetzer is not available as prior art pursuant to MPEP §715, Applicant believes that a *prima facie* case of non-obviousness has not been established, and requests that the rejection of claims 1-34 be withdrawn. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance, and requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-34.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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